Times

Cuban in Havana Cites C.I.A. Plots Against Castro

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MEXICO CITY, April 2 (AP) —A man who identified himself as a defector from the Central Intelligence Agency said at a Havana news conference today of two C.I.A. plots on Fidel Castro's life, according to a report by the Prensa Latina press agency.

The Cuban agency, in a dispatch from Havana, identified the man as Manuel de Armas and quoted him as having said he had "direct knowledge" of the assassination plans but did not take part in either.

Mr. de Armas was reported as having said that the first plot involved killing Prime Minister Castro in November 1971 when he was on a month-long visit to Chile as a guest of the late President Salvador Allende Gossens.

The second attempt was to have taken place "later" in Cuba, Mr. de Armas reportedly said, but was foiled when authorities in the Bahamas arrested several Cuban exiles who were en route to Cuba to contact two other plotters. The two in Cuba were named as Luis Lobaina and Aristides Marquez and they were a carry out the plan, according to the Prensa Latina dispatch.

A Senate committee investigating the C.I.A. reported last November that it had found evidence of C.I.A. involvement in at least eight plots to kill Mr. Castro betwen 1960 and 1965. It said they ranged from using high-powered rifles to putting poison on Mr. Castro's cigars.

Prensa Latina said Mr. de Armas left the C.I.A. a few months ago because of its disgust with his work and returned to Cuba.

It said Mr. de Armas had fled Cuba for the United States with his parents in 1961 when he was 13 years old. Mr. Castro gained power in 1959 and gradually installed a Communist regime on the island.

Prensa Latina quoted Mr. de Armas as having said that he was recruited by the C.I.A. while he was in a college in the United States and that he worked in several undercover operations both in Latin America and the United States.